

MARIE BOUTTE: I'm Dr. Marie Boutte,

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16 B-o-u-t-t-e. I'm a medical anthropologist at UNR, and
17 for the past six or seven years I have been conducting
18 medical anthropological research in downwind communities
19 of the Nevada Test Site and the communities that are
20 likely to be impacted by the Yucca Mountain project.

21 I focused my work on two aspects: One was I
22 have done a household survey in Caliente which will be
23 one of the communities likely impacted by at least the
24 transportation of nuclear wastes to Yucca Mountain. I
25 did a household survey of 35 households as a pilot study,

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1 and even though the sample was very small, it was a very
2 intense survey, and we saw a tendency in that survey for
3 the families who had lived in that area during the
4 atmospheric testing program to have more health problems
5 than families who did not live there, and we find in
6 these communities quite a bit of health problems, and
7 epidemiological data in the past has shown health
8 problems in these communities, especially thyroid and
9 leukemia in the past, and even though the samples are
10 small and some of the studies seem to be flawed because
11 of our small samples, the raw numbers always show that

12 these communities in rural Nevada around the test site
13 and around Yucca Mountain have more health problems than
14 other people have.

15 The other aspect of my research has been on
16 compensation for people who have been exposed to
17 atmospheric testing. We have a program called the
18 Radiation Exposure Compensation Act and Program, and many
19 of our residents have tried to get compensation under
20 that program. Last year the fund ran out of money, and
21 the people that I have interviewed -- and there's been
22 many, many that I have interviewed -- always have very,
23 very difficult problems getting compensation.

24 So what I'm saying is that I think Nevada has
25 long carried the nation's nuclear load. We have health

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1 problems still -- we still have health problems from when
2 we had nuclear testing here in the past. I don't think
3 that we should be asked to expose our citizens to more
4 radiation than we've already had, we're already suffering
5 from, and I am willing to assure everyone here that we
6 will never get compensation should there be an accident
7 because we can't get compensation under a Congressional
8 act that says we should have compensation.

9 The process has been very difficult. People
10 can't prove causation, and that will be a major problem
11 for us in any aspects of this project in trying to prove
12 that we have had problems because we couldn't prove it in
13 the past.

14 So I'm here to say, we don't want this. Our
15 citizens are already suffering from radiological
16 illnesses, and we know we won't get compensated, so,
17 please, don't bring it to Nevada.

18 Thank you.